Supplemental Material

Criteria used to evaluate eligibility of studies for inclusion in the meta-regression

Table 1 includes six evaluation criteria that were used to assess the quality of the studies that were potentially eligible for inclusion in the benzene-leukemia meta-regression. Justification and application of the criteria were discussed in detail in a previous publication(Vlaanderen et al. 2008).

Table 1: Evaluation criteria

Criteria	Possible outcome	Required outcome
1 Is the study design case-control, cohort or cross-sectional?	Yes / no	yes
2 Is exposure expressed on a ratio scale and specific for the agent of interest?	Yes / no	yes
3 Is a detailed description of the statistical analysis provided?	Yes / no	yes
4 Are criteria for inclusion of subjects into the study described with sufficient detail?	Yes / no	yes
5 Is the assessment of the health effect performed according to recognized norms?	Yes / no	yes
6 Are all known potential strong confounding factors considered in the study design?	Yes / no	yes

Reference:

Vlaanderen J, Vermeulen R, Heederik D, Kromhout H. 2008. Guidelines to evaluate human observational studies for quantitative risk assessment. Environ Health Perspect 116(12):1700-1705.